

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 002774  
ORIGIN EA-12

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CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /045 R

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O 052304Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE  
DOD  
JCS  
CINCPAC  
CINCPACFLT  
CINCPACAF HICKHAM  
CINCPACREPPHIL  
CG 13TH AF

S E C R E T STATE 002774

HONG KONG FOR ASST SECY HOLBROOKE AMB NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS: JANUARY 9  
MEETING  
DEPT ASST SECY DEF ABROMOWITZ MR ARMACOST ADM WEISNER  
FOLLOWING IS REVISION OF POSITION PAPER ON EQUIPMENT LIST  
PROPOSED BY DOD:

QUOTE AN INITIAL EXAMINATION AND REVIEW OF THE LIST WHICH  
WAS PRESENTED TO AMBASSADOR NEWSOM BY SECRETARY OF  
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NATIONAL DEFENSE ENRILE HAS HIGHLIGHTED A NUMBER OF DIS-  
TURBING PROBLEMS WHICH MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO ASSESS IT.

-- THE LIST IS FAR TOO LARGE. WHEN WE MET WITH MINISTER  
ENRILE IN NEW YORK IN OCTOBER OF LAST YEAR, WE INDICATED  
THAT WE WERE FULLY PREPARED TO EXAMINE PHILIPPINE DEFENSE  
REQUIREMENTS, BUT THAT THE LIST OF 1976 WAS SIMPLY NOT

ADEQUATE FOR THIS PURPOSE IN THAT IT WAS TOO LONG, TOO EXPENSIVE AND NOT PRIORITIZED. MINISTER ENRILE INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND THAT THE NEW LIST OF REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC (SHORTER) AND PRIORITIZED. THE PRESENT LIST IS MORE THAN TWICE AS LONG AS ITS 1976 PREDECESSOR. APPROXIMATELY 65 PERCENT OF THE ITEMS ON THE LIST ARE NEW ADDITIONS SINCE 1976.

-- THE LIST IS NOT PRIORITIZED. WHILE IT IS PRESENTED IN IMMEDIATE 3-5-YEAR TIME FRAME CATEGORIES OF REQUIREMENT, THERE IS NO SENSE OF WHICH ITEMS ARE NEEDED MOST URGENTLY BEYOND THIS BASIC DIVISION. NO DIFFERENTIATION OF ITEMS EXISTS IN EITHER TIME FRAME CATEGORY. THIS LACK OR PRIORITIZATION MAKES OUR ASSESSMENT THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE AN ADEQUATE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE PHILIPPINES PERCEIVES AS THE AREA OR AREAS OF GREATEST NEED. SUCH A PRIORITIZATION WOULD HAVE SHARPENED OUR FOCUS CONSIDERABLY.

-- THE LIST IS IN MANY CASES FAR TOO GENERAL AND IMPRECISE. ABOUT ONE-QUARTER OF THE ITEMS ARE SO ILL-DEFINED THAT WE HAVE HAD TO SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION THROUGH THE JUSMAG. EXAMPLES INCLUDE "MINES", "TELETYPE SYSTEMS", "HYBRID COMPUTER SYSTEM", "CHEMICAL LABORATORY EQUIPMENT" AND "TOOLS, CUTTERS, SPARE PARTS, ETC.".

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THE INITIAL REVIEW ALSO REVEALED THAT THE LIST CONTAINS A NUMBER OF ITEMS WE SIMPLY CANNOT SUPPORT ON POLICY GROUNDS, SUCH AS THE F-16 AIRCRAFT, HARPOON, WA6LEYE AND REDEYE MISSILES, SUBMARINES AND DESTROYER ESCORTS. ALSO, WHILE WE HAVE NOT PRICED THE LIST, IT IS CLEAR FROM THE OVERSIZE AND THE NATURE OF MANY ENTRIES THAT THE COST IS FAR MORE THAN WE COULD POSSIBLY SUPPORT UNDER OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

NONETHELESS, WE ARE CONTINUING OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE LIST USING POLICY, PRICING AND AVAILABILITY CRITERIA AND PLAN FOR A TEAM TO ARRIVE IN MANILA BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY. OUR PRESENT PLANNING IS FOR A SMALL TEAM OF FIVE OR SIX PERSONS TO VISIT MANILA FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS. THE TEAM WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS OUR VIEWS ON THE EQUIPMENT LIST, DISCUSS PHILIPPINE VIEWS AND REQUIREMENTS AND FURTHER REFINE THE LIST IN ACCORDANCE WITH EACH COUNTRY'S VIEWS. THE TEAM WILL THEN RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. THE TEAM WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HEARING PHILIPPINE VIEWS AND PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE RELATIVE PRIORITIES AMONG AND THE NEED FOR ITEMS ON THE LIST. UNQUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** MARR, RP  
**To:** MANILA  
**Type:** TE  
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